II.   AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A tax calculation architecture, comprising:

an interface for receiving tax calculation requests in an industry standard format;

a plurality of tax calculators, each calculator configured to calculate a different tax, wherein each tax calculator includes an interface for receiving calculator-specific requests in a non-industry standard format;

an isolation layer residing between the interface and the plurality of tax calculators, wherein the isolation layer includes:

a database for storing customer-specific extensions and rules and standard taxation rules, [[;]] and

a system for selecting one of the plurality of tax calculators, wherein the tax calculator is selected based on a rule defined in the database;

a plurality of tax tables stored in a single location with the plurality of tax calculators;

a table update system configured to receive updates for the plurality of tax tables and update the plurality of tax tables;

an update system for updating the customer-specific extensions and rules stored in the database; and

a translator for translating the tax calculation requests from the industry standard format to the non-industry standard format required for the selected tax calculator of the plurality of tax calculators.

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2. (Previously presented)   The tax calculation architecture of claim 1, wherein the isolation layer further includes: a customer extension manager for interpreting and managing customer-specific extensions.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The tax calculation system of claim 1, wherein the industry standard format comprises 3Y4 XML.

5. (Original) The tax calculation system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the tax calculators is for a specific geographic region.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The tax calculation system of claim 1, wherein the interface for receiving tax calculation requests is callable via a network.

8. (Currently amended) A program product stored on a recordable medium <u>which when executed causes a computer system to process</u> ~~for processing~~ tax calculation requests, comprising:

       an interface for receiving tax calculation requests in an industry standard format;

       a translator for translating the tax calculation requests from the industry standard format

to a non-industry standard format required for one of a plurality of tax calculators, each calculator configured to calculate a different tax, wherein each tax calculator includes an interface for receiving calculator-specific requests in a non-industry standard format;

an isolation layer residing between the interface and the plurality of tax calculators, wherein the isolation layer includes: a database for storing customer-specific extensions and rules and standard taxation rules; and a system for selecting one of the plurality of tax calculators, wherein the tax calculator is selected based on a rule defined in the database;

a plurality of tax tables stored in a single location with the plurality of tax calculators; ~~and~~

a table update system configured to receive updates for the plurality of tax tables and update the plurality of tax tables; and

an update system for updating customer-specific extensions and rules.

9. (Previously presented) The program product of claim 8, wherein the isolation layer further includes: a customer extension manager for interpreting and managing customer-specific extensions.

10. (Previously Presented) The program product of claim 9, wherein the selection of the tax calculator is based on a rule defined in the database.

11. (Original) The program product of claim 8, wherein the industry standard format comprises 3Y4 XML.

12. (Original) The program product of claim 8, wherein at least one of the tax calculators is for a specific geographic region.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) The program product of claim 8, wherein the interface for receiving tax calculation requests is callable via a network.

15. (Currently amended) A method for processing tax calculation requests, comprising:

storing customer-specific extensions and rules and standard taxation rules in a database;

receiving a tax calculation request in an industry standard format at a tax engine;

identifying and resolving customer-specific extensions in the request;

selecting one of a plurality of tax calculators to handle the request, each calculator configured to calculate a different tax, wherein the one tax calculator is selected based on a rule defined in the database;

translating the request from the industry standard format to a non-industry standard format required for the selected tax calculator of the plurality of tax calculators; and

using the selected tax calculator and at least one of a plurality of tax tables stored in a single location with the plurality of tax calculators to process the request in the calculator-specific format,

wherein the plurality of tax tables are updated by a table update system configured to receive updates, and wherein the customer-specific extensions and rules are updated by an update system.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the tax engine resides on a computer network.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the selection of the tax calculator is based on a geographic requirement.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the industry standard format comprises 3Y4 XML.